

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-17, 19-23, and 26-74 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 16, 20-23, and 26-33 have been amended, claims 9, 18, 24, and 25 have been canceled without prejudice, and new claims 37-74 have been added. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at, e.g., page 2, lines 11-21 and 27-29; page 3, lines 12-16 and 24-30; page 4, lines 16-30; page 7, lines 21-31; page 8, lines 20-24; page 12, lines 26-29; page 18, line 28, to page 20, line 12; and Figures 1, 2, and 5-12. These amendments add no new matter.

Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the requirement for restriction, applicants elect the HBV core antigen sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 in which the isoleucine residue at position 97 is substituted. Applicants have amended the claims to reflect this election. In the telephone interview with the undersigned on April 28, 2004, the Examiner stated that so long as the amended claims require a substitution at amino acid position 97, proteins having substitutions in addition to the substitution at position 97 also fall within the elected group and will therefore be examined in the present application.

Enclosed is a Petition for Two Month Extension of Time and a check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply fees for excess claims (and any other charges or credits) to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 12071-017002.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

May 4, 2004



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